

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A new group of picornaviruses is disclosed. The picornaviruses of the invention comprise in the non-coding region of their viral genome a nucleotide sequence which corresponds to cDNA sequence (I) or homologous sequences having at least 75 % homology to the SEQ ID NO:1, and they cause mammalian disease. Further aspects of the invention comprise a protein corresponding to a protein of the picornaviruses, antiserum or antibody directed against a protein of the picornaviruses, antigen comprising a protein of the picornaviruses, diagnostic kits, vaccines, use of the picornaviruses in medicaments, particularly for the treatment or prevention of Myocarditis, Cardiomyopathia, Guillain Barré Syndrome, and Diabetes Mellitus, Multiple Sclerosis, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Myasthenia Gravis, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Dermatomyositis, Polymyositis, Spontaneous Abortion, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and methods of treatment of diseases caused by the picornaviruses.

**SEQ ID NO: 1 (Ljungan 87-012)**

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AGTCTAGTCT TATCTTGAT GTGTCCTGCA CTGAACTTGT TTCTGTCTCT    50
GGAGTGCTCT ACACTTCAGT AGGGGCTGTA CCCGGGCGGT CCCACTCTTC    100
ACAGGAATCT GCACAGGTGG CTTTCACCTC TGGACAGTGC ATTCCACACC    150
CGCTCCACGG TAGAAGATGA TGTGTGTCTT TGCTTGTAAG AAGCTTGTGA    200
AAATCGTGTG TAGGCGTAGC GGCTACTTGA GTGCCAGCGG ATTACCCCTA    250
GTGGTAACAC TAGC

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(1)

50 100 150 200 250